

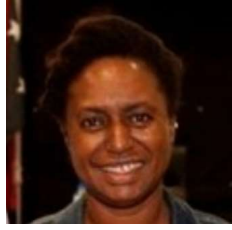


Timeline of efforts to promote more women in PNG National Parliament	
No photo available	<p>1977-1982</p> <p>Hon Waliyato Clowes elected to the first PNG National Parliament to the Middle Fly Open Constituency.</p>
	<p>1977-1987</p> <p>Hon Nahau Rooney was elected for two consecutive terms to represent the Manus Regional Constituency in the National Parliament. She was a Minister in the very first Cabinet and held a ministerial position for 10 years, including Minister for Justice.</p>
	<p>1977-1982 & 1997-2000</p> <p>Dame Josephine Abajiah was the first woman elected to the PNG House of Assembly in 1972. After PNG obtained independence, she was elected twice to the National Parliament. She represented the NCD from 1977-82 and was elected as Governor of Milne Bay when she won the seat of Milne Bay Regional which she held from 1997-2000.</p>
	<p>1997-2002, 2002-2007, 2007-2012</p> <p>Dame Carol Kidu was elected to the National Parliament for three consecutive terms and served as the only women in Parliament from 2000—2012. She was the Minister for Community Development for 11 years and then spent one year as Opposition Leader before retiring. In her role as Minister in the 2007 Somare Cabinet, she was responsible for driving the campaign to legislatively entrench women’s representation in the National Parliament.</p>
 	<p>October 2008 – April 2009</p> <p>The first parliamentary effort to use legislative means to include women in the National Parliament attempted to use ss.101 and 102 of the Constitution, which allows up to 3 people to be nominated to Parliament. NEC decisions No. 106/2008, No.175/2008 and No. 232/2008 laid the foundations for this effort. In October 2008, women citizens were invited to submit Expressions of Interest for the three nominated seats, with applications to be vetted by a screening panel chaired by National Council of Women. The task of the Screening Panel was to shortlist six nominees for a final screening by the PM and the Leader of Opposition before presentation to Parliament for endorsement. In May 2009, a motion was presented to the Parliament to allow the 3 women selected by the PM and Leader of the Opposition to be nominated to Parliament but the motion was rejected by a vote of 60-16.</p>

	<p>April 2010 – March 2012</p> <p>After the failure to introduce nominated seats for women, efforts moved towards introducing 22 new reserved seats for women, one for each province and the National Capital District. This campaign was again pushed by Dame Carol Kidu, with support from PM Somare. There was a two-step process required; the Constitution needed to be amended to allow for 22 additional seats and the Organic Law on National and Local Level Govt Elections needed to be amended to clarify the boundaries and roles of the 22 new MPs.</p>
	<p>April 2010 – November 2011</p> <p>The first step in the process of reserving seats for women – namely, amending the Constitution – was pursued through the <i>Equality and Participation Bill</i> which was tabled in April 2010. The Bill sought to amend s.101 of the Constitution to introduce 22 reserved seats for women. Within Parliament an absolute majority vote was needed to amend s.101 - 55 votes out of 109. After a long campaign by the women’s movement, the Bill finally passed its second reading in November 2011 - 72 votes to 2.</p>
	<p>April 2010 – June 2012</p> <p>The second step in the process of reserving seats for women was amending the <i>Organic Law on National and Local Level Govt Elections</i> in the lead up to the June 2012 National Elections. A vote of 3/4 of Parliament was required - 84 votes out of 109. The amendments were originally to be tabled alongside the Equality and Participation Bill, but this was not done. Despite substantial campaigning by Dame Carol Kidu and the women’s movement, the amendments to the Organic Law were not passed in time for the 2012 elections, nor subsequently.</p>
	<p>July 2010 – current date</p> <p>Key parts of Organic Law on Political Parties and Candidates (OLIPPAC) were struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutionally restricting the rights of MPs and/or contravening existing provisions of the Constitution.</p> <p>Since that time, the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPCC) has been working on amendment to the OLIPPAC to rectify these deficiencies and more generally improve the operations of the law. Proposed amendments included introducing a candidate quota whereby 10% of the candidates endorsed by political parties would have to be women. A more recent draft proposes increasing the women’s candidate quota to 20% (see below for more)</p>
	<p>2012-2017</p> <p>During the 2012 National Elections, despite the failure of the reserved seats push, but perhaps because of the support for women generated through that campaign, three women were elected to the National Parliament. Hon Julie Soso was elected as Provincial Governor of Eastern Highlands.</p>

**2012-2017**

Hon Loujaya Toni (now Kouza) was elected to the Lae Open Constituency in Morobe Province for one term. She was the Minister for Community Development from 2012 to August 2014.

**2012-2017**

Hon Delilah Gore was elected to the Sohe Open Constituency in Oro Province. She was Minister for Higher Education, Science, Research and Technology from 2012 to August 2014 and from 2014 to 2017 she was Minister for Religion, Youth & Community Development in the O'Neill Government.

**Aug 2017**

After the high watermark of 3 women during the 2012 National Elections, in 2017 no women were elected to Parliament at all. In the aftermath of those elections, PM Peter O'Neill indicated an interest in [reviving the 22 reserved seats proposal](#) and committed his Government to reviewing and promoting legal options. He also raised the idea of reserving 4 seats for women, one for each of the regions, if the large proposal was unable to attract sufficient support.

**Feb 2018 to early 2019**

Upon directions from the NEC, in February 2018 the Governor General [commissioned](#) the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission (CLRC) to [review PNG's electoral laws](#) within 18 months, including options for promoting women through temporary special measures. It is understood that the report has been produced, but the CLRC website is currently under construction and the report is not online.

**June 2020**

Upon the swearing in of the new Chair of the CLRC (with the old Chair becoming the DG of the Department of Justice and the Attorney General), PM Marape specifically committed the Government to exploring options to [reserve 4-5 regional seats for women](#) in advance of the 2022 National Elections. He tasked the CLRC with looking into this issue again

Current status of reforms

It is understood that the Marape Government is currently developing two legislative proposal to promote more women in the National Parliament, which will soon be tabled for consideration:

- Reserving 5 regional seats for women, one per region, plus an additional seat for the Highlands in recognition of the size of the population. Issues to be worked out include: who will vote for the seats (women only or all voters); how will the women be supported to represent such large constituencies; what are their voting rights in Parliament; do they have full access to CDF and other funding.
- Implementing reforms to the Organic Law on Political Parties and Candidates to (ii) mandate all political parties to ensure that 20% of candidates endorsed must be women or risk their access to public funding and (ii) reimburse political parties 20% of the costs of supporting women's candidates campaigns, even if the women lose (this increases the reimbursement from the current 10% now)